

# Agricultural Working Group Fact Sheet:

## Implementation Plan for Upper Rapidan Watershed

### Madison, Greene, Orange, Albemarle Counties, VA

#### **Why Do A TMDL Implementation Plan?**

The development of a TMDL implementation plan is required by Virginia's Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act, which directs the State Water Control Board to "develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters." Implementation plans provide communities with framework for restoring water quality in their watershed, and often provide opportunities to receive funds for restoration efforts from several sources including federal and state government.

#### **How Can I Participate?**

One of the primary means of public participation in this TMDL implementation plan process will be through three working groups: residential/recreational; business: agriculture, watermen, and marinas, and government. Citizens may also serve on a steering committee, which will help to guide the overall implementation plan development process. The working groups provide citizens with a venue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will report their ideas and recommendations to the steering committee for consideration to be included in the implementation plan. Strong public participation in these groups ensures that the final implementation plan reflects local concerns and ideas with regard to water quality improvements.

#### **What will the Agricultural Working Group address?**

The Agricultural Working Group will address the sources of bacteria that can be addressed by farming practices. The group will focus on identifying obstacles to implementation of best management practices to reduce bacteria coming from agricultural operations, along with practical solutions to these obstacles. Reductions in bacteria coming from agricultural operations can be achieved by removing all livestock from stream access and reducing the amount of bacteria being carried across the land to the stream network during storm events by utilizing various best management practices. The group will focus on the following tasks:

- Identify constraints to the implementation of best management practices
- Consider alternative best management practices that are both effective and more affordable for the participants
- Identify alternative funding sources/partnerships that will promote implementation
- Identify appropriate staged measurable goals
- Identify timeline for achieving implementation goals
- Review implementation strategies from a business perspective

#### **Who makes up the Agricultural Working Group?**

This working group should consist of farmers and landowners, local community organizations, and local, state and federal agency representatives.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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